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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

First Named  
Inventor : Gary E. Bement et al.

Appln. No. : 09/970,125

Filed : October 3, 2001

For : SUSPENSION SYSTEM WITH  
ADJUSTABLE PRELOAD

Docket No.: S01.12-0718/STL 9917

Group Art Unit: 2653

Examiner:

Allen J. Heinz

**SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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Sir:

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PAPER IS BEING  
SENT BY U.S. MAIL, FIRST CLASS, TO THE  
COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS, P.O. BOX 1450,  
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22313-1450, THIS

21 DAY OF

January, 20 04

Heidi Skvacek  
PATENT ATTORNEY

The patents or publications listed on the enclosed PTO Form-1449 are submitted pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.97. Copies of the patents or publications cited are enclosed.

**TIME OF FILING**

The information disclosure statement is being filed:

1. \_\_\_\_ with the application or within three months of the filing date of the application or date of entry into the national stage of an international application or before the mailing date of a first Office action on the merits, whichever event occurs last. In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b), no statement or fee is required.
2. X after the time period specified in paragraph 1 above, but before the mailing date of a final action under 37 C.F.R. § 1.113 or notice of allowance under 37 C.F.R. § 1.311. Therefore, in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c), submitted herewith is:

(check either A or B below)

- A. \_\_\_\_ a statement as specified in 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e).

- B.        the fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p) for submission of an information disclosure statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c).
3.        after the mailing date of either a final action under 37 C.F.R. § 1.113 or a notice of allowance under 37 C.F.R. § 1.311, whichever occurs first, but before payment of the issue fee. Therefore, Applicant petitions for consideration and submits herewith:
- A. a statement as specified in 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e);
- B. the petition fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p).

**STATEMENT**

(only used if No. 2(A) or No. 3 above is checked)

The person(s) signing below certify

(check appropriate paragraph)

       that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this statement. 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(1).

OR

       that no item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application or, to the knowledge of the person signing the certification after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this statement. 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(2).

**METHOD OF PAYMENT**

       No fee is required.

  X   Attached is a check in the amount of \$180.00.

The Director is authorized to charge any fee deficiency required by this paper or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 23-1123.

Respectfully submitted,

WESTMAN, CHAMPLIN & KELLY, P.A.

By: Deirdre Kvale  
Deirdre Megley Kvale, Reg. No. 35,612  
Suite 1600 - International Centre  
900 Second Avenue South  
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-3319  
Phone: (612) 334-3222  
Fax: (612) 334-3312

DMK:lah